

## **FOI – 107/2018**

### **REQUEST**

1: Whether your local authority offers special leave / public duty leave for council staff to fulfil public duties relating to the emergency services. Such duties include: retained fire fighters, special constables, on call NHS / Community responders, search and rescue workers, the RNLI and any other emergency services workers. it does not include jury service or armed forces, or sitting on a health authority board / committee.

2: If the local authority offers such special leave for the emergency services, is it paid or unpaid? If it is paid, how many days / hours are offered per calendar year?

3: If the local authority pays staff to take such leave, for a copy of this policy. And the number of staff who have taken the leave between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2017 (broken down by 'emergency service' in part one.

4: If the local authority does not offer such special leave, whether there are plans to introduce such a policy.

### **RESPONSE**

In our Leave Policy we have the following statement:

#### 15. Public Duties

Staff who are involved with the local community will be provided with reasonable time off for public duties subject to prior written agreement of their Head of Department e.g. Justice of the Peace, School Governor.

These cases will be assessed on an individual basis. We do have a number of staff that sit under these categories, however, our system only records this as 'paid absence' (which would be their normal rate of pay) and does not specify what the leave is for, so we are unable to provide any breakdown information.

We do however as an Authority support all our staff engaged in Public Duties alongside their substantive post.